Material used in rail coaches

1432. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that material used to build a rail coach is tested and accepted on its fire retardant capabilities;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that three coaches of Frontier Mail were engulfed within fifteen minutes of fire in May, 2003; and

(c) whether Government have inquired into the circumstances, which led to the fire of three coaches, and if so, the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), North Eastern Circle is conducting statutory enquiry of Frontier Mail Fire mishap. Final report of enquiry is awaited. As per CRS/NE Circle's preliminary report, cause of fire can be ascertained only after the State Forensic Science Laboratory Chandigarh's report is received.

Rear view mirrors in Locomotives

1433. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rear view mirrors have been provided in all electric as well as diesel locomotives of the Indian Railways in order to enable the engine driver to determine the positions of the coaches/ wagons beyond the engine;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) steps contemplated by Government to provide such rear view mirrors in every engine so that incidents like fire which engulfed the three coaches of Amritsar bound Frontier Mail killing 36 passengers recently could have been noticed by the engine driver?